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TAY System of Care Bureau Newsletter

SYMPOSIUM ON COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR AWARENESS AND TREATMENT

In conjunction with L.A. County Board Supervisors, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District, and Don Knabe, Fourth District, LACDMH TAY System of Care sponsored an enlightening day of awareness, treatment, and interventions around the exploding problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Approximately 50 providers attended the all-day conference, held at Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' field office in Exposition Park.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas noted that community efforts need to come together to fight the problem, "When bad people plot; good people plan," he said. Ridley-Thomas also emphasized the need for creative thinking in fighting CSEC.

LACDMH Director, Marvin Southard, D.S.W., provided opening remarks, underscoring the importance of recognizing this population. "We have to be thoughtful of how we fight – fight in a way in which they don't expect," he said.

The morning keynote was presented by Nola Brantley, CEO, Nola Brantley Speaks, MISSEY Co-Founder and CSEC survivor, who spoke passionately on the issue and focused on the curriculum of the CSEC Community Intervention Project. Ms. Brantley suggested what may be next for LA County, including:

- Continued training for child-serving agencies
- First responder protocol
- Internal response protocol for child-serving agencies
- DCFS hotline and identification protocol
- Screening tools to identify CSEC
- Prevention and intervention workshops and development of CSEC placement options
- Multi-system data collection
- CSEC specialized services

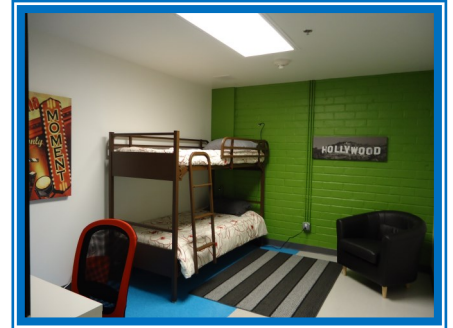
Presented by the West Coast Children's Clinic (Oakland, CA) staff Erin Rosenblatt, PsyD and Amara Benjamin Bullock, M.F.T.I., the afternoon session focused on interventions and treatment; what works and what doesn't.

Story by Kathleen Piché, Public Affairs Director



SPOTLIGHT ON: Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EESP)

There are over 10,000 homeless youth currently living on Los Angeles County streets. The impetus for the development of EESP grew out of the concern of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for the state of homelessness in Los Angeles County, especially for those in the Transition Age Youth population.



Another factor that stimulated the origin of the EESP 2008 was the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which provided funding to address SED/SPMI youth and young adults who were homeless, or at imminent risk for homelessness; at risk for juvenile justice involvement; experiencing the onset of serious psychiatric illness and the first psychiatric break; youth with histories of long-term institutional care; as well as youth unlikely to seek help in traditional mental health service settings.

The Department of Mental Health designated MHSA funding to establish and operate the EESP to meet the urgent needs of homeless youth. The initial objective was to provide temporary shelter for up to 36 nights while pursuing the goal of permanent housing. EESP sites are located in Hollywood, Silverlake, South Los Angeles, and Long Beach. The TAY Division is working with Service Area District Chiefs to create EESPs in other areas of the county.

TAY admitted into shelters are provided with an array of mental health and supportive services. The Countywide TAY Navigation Team of Psychiatric Social Workers, Mental Health Clinicians, Substance Abuse Counselors, and Medical Case Workers assist the TAY with navigating through the various human services systems in order to effectively link them to needed mental health, housing, and other important services.

Story by Douglas Ware, LMFT
MH Clinical Supervisor



“There are well over 10,000 homeless youth currently living on Los Angeles County streets.”

Douglas Ware, LMFT

*"Anyone can do
the same, it
depends on how
bad you want a
change in your
life" - J.P.*

Client Success Story

(Adapted from a letter by JP)

As I walked into the seamlessly gleaming door of Good Seed, I knew that this would be an opportunity of a lifetime. As time passed by, I became acquainted with staff members. We had groups together about some important topics in life. As time passed by, I realized some of the staff at times was hard to deal with. But that pushed me harder to go somewhere better.

My stay in Good Seed hasn't all been pleasant despite the fact I did have a roof over my head. When it was time to see the TAY team, things became critical. But whatever they said to do, I did. I stayed on task. In my own thoughts, I said to myself, nothing comes to a sleeper but a dream. So I ask questions on how to get permanent housing. I asked staff what is it I had to do. More importantly, I prayed a prayer, a vital prayer to God; "And I believe by that prayer, he opened an open space at Bridges."

After being notified by Mrs. Dany of the appointment to see Lensy from Bridges, I was excited. I went to El Monte to have an interview with Lensy. From there I was told that I had a good interview, and that Bridges wanted to help me in placing me in their program. Anyone can do the same, it depends on how bad you want a change in your life.

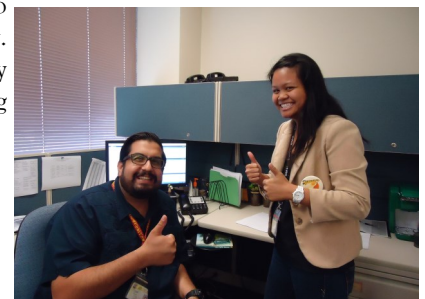


IBHIS



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) partnered with Netsmart to launch the Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS) in January, 2014. DMH's goal in implementing IBHIS is to transition into a paperless electronic system that will allow directly operated programs and contracted entities to streamline the claiming and documentation processes.

The Specialized Foster Care (SFC) program in Service Area 6 is among the first programs to implement IBHIS. Dr. Sacha Dovic, a Supervising Psychologist for the SFC program, stated that the implementation of IBHIS has been successful due to having laptops out in the field that allows the clinicians the ability to engage consumers and build rapport in a more efficient way. The SFC program has successfully implemented IBHIS by collaborating with other directly-operated providers during their roll-outs.



Story by Elmer Ornelas

Staff Feature: Elena Farias, LCSW, Ph.D. District Chief

What interested you in the Mental Health field? What is your role in the program?

I am responsible for the clinical and administrative operations of the Specialized Foster Care Program in Service Area 6 as well as the 3 directly operated clinics, including Augustus F. Hawkins



Mental Health Center (AFCMHC), Compton Family MHC, and West Central Family MHC. We are a very busy operation with over 300 dedicated staff providing mental health services to approximately 6,000 clients and their families. There is a very active Spirituality Roundtable at the Compton Family MHC which has developed a thriving partnership with the faith based community. Compton has partnered with Dollarhide Health Center by co-locating staff once a week in their health clinic. AFH is looking forward to partnering with Exodus Urgent Care Center on the grounds of the Martin Luther King Campus in the Fall of 2014. In the children's clinic at AFH, UCLA has implemented their "Leveraging Mobile Health Technology" Pilot which is measuring the effectiveness of providing smart phones to the parents/caregivers of children diagnosed with ADHD to assist them with treatment compliance and offer up-to-date information. "There is never a dull moment, always exciting and such a pleasure to work with such committed and hard working staff!"

What do you do to de-stress/decompress?

"To decompress, the first and foremost thing that I do is give thanks to God. I pray throughout the day giving praise and thanks for the blessings, the people and the opportunities that I have been blessed with. Second, I try to have some source of physical exercise in order to release the stress that our bodies absorb throughout the course of our work. A couple of years ago, I joined a Pilates studio where I take classes 3-4 times per week; not only has this been extremely enjoyable, but I have also met a great group of women that have become my close friends. Lastly, I pack snacks and lunch daily as a way to remind myself to eat throughout the day. Usually I am good about the nutritious value of my lunch, although every now and then I throw in some dark chocolate! LOL. And last, but not least, is getting together with family and friends; laughter is the best medicine! "

Before coming to this program, where else have you worked in the field?

Actually right out of graduate social work school, I joined the Department of Health Services (DHS) and worked at LAC-USC Women's Hospital. After about one year, I left DHS and worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Adoptions, which, at that time, was its own stand-alone department. I was a Child Welfare Worker, working with children in foster care and also was assigned to complete home studies for adoptive parents. After several years, I left the County and worked for other mental health organizations, including Plaza Community Center in Boyle Heights and Las Encinas Hospital in Pasadena. After some time, I ventured out and opened my private practice. While building my practice, I completed my doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology. After visiting the state of Alaska on several occasions, I felt a call to work in that inspiring landscape with its native Alaskan peoples. After 12 successful years of my private practice, I decided to close my practice and moved to Alaska where I lived for 5 years. I worked as the Clinical Director of a Child/Adolescent mental health agency and also as a manager for specialized field based full service partnership programs. Upon returning to California, I resumed employment with Department of Mental Health (DMH). As a manager in DMH, I joined an administrative/clinical team and assisted with the transformation of services integrating staff from two departments, DHS and DMH, into what is now known as the Outpatient Services at AFH. Several years, and many program transformations later, as a Division Chief, I moved and joined the Program Support Bureau, working closely with the District Chief, providing leadership to the Countywide Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Administration Team. After this rewarding experience, I became a District Chief and joined the Transition Age Youth System of Care Bureau in Service Area 6.

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staff!" -*

**Elena Farias,
LCSW, PhD**

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH SYSTEM OF CARE LEADERSHIP

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Announcements

Suicide Prevention

The Partners in Suicide Prevention (PSP) Team for Children, Transition Age Youth (TAY), Adults, and Older Adults is funded by the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA). This program is designed to increase public awareness of suicide and reduce stigma associated with seeking mental health and substance abuse services.

Trainings have been provided in an array of settings including: Los Angeles County departments, colleges, shelters, faith based communities, community mental health agencies and direct service providers. Our goal is to average 16 trainings per month.

For additional information or trainings, please contact Karon Austin, LCSW, TAY Division, at 213-351-7788 or William Barreto, MPA, TAY Division, at 213-351-7797.

Anti-Stigma and Discrimination

The Countywide Anti-Stigma and Discrimination (ASD) Team is a Prevention and Early Intervention Program. Its mission is to increase public awareness, social acceptance, and inclusion of people with mental health challenges. ASD outreach activities include presentations, group sessions with dialogue, and activities to encourage access to mental health services.

TAY Mobile Resource Library

The mobile library provides information regarding mental health, housing resources, health services, crisis counseling, alcohol and drug counseling, GED preparation, social skills training, job readiness and job placement services. The mobile library can be set up in directly operated and community agencies on a rotating basis.

For additional information on ASD trainings and the mobile library please contact Doralee Bridges, TAY Division, at 213-351-5225.

Resources

Website: www.dmh.lacounty.gov

TAY Division Email Address
taydivision@dmh.lacounty.gov

DMH Access Hotline
1-800-854-7771

National Suicide Prevention Hotline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)